Goa National Highway during the year 1991-92; and

(b) the progress made so far in the repair work of the Highway and the time by which it will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) During 1991-92, an amount of Rs. 230 lakhs has been allocated for the maintenance and repairs of Bombay-Goa National Highway No. 17 to the concerned states of Maharashtra and Goa against ordinary repairs, periodical renewals, flood damage repairs, etc.

(b) Maintenance and repairs is a continuous process and these activities are pursued throughout the year as per actual needs to keep National Highways in traffic-worthy condition.

[Translation]

Irregularities in advancing loans by Vijaya Bank

4082. SHRI HARPAL PANWAR: Will the minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of companies manufacturing floppy discs provided loans by Vijaya Bank during the year 1990 and the details of loan provided to them;

(b) whether any complaints have been received by the Government in regard to irregularities committed in granting loans by the bank; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Vijaya Bank has reported that it has not financed any company engaged in the manufacture of floppy discs during the year 1990.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

[English]

Export of Iron Ore

4083. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the rate at which the export of iron ore is made at present;

(b) whether there is a vast scope for the export as the demand for iron ore is fast increasing in several countries;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to increase the export of iron ore; and

(d) the target set for the Eighth Five Year Plans period, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The rate at which iron ore is being exported at present ranges between US $ 12.95 and US $ 25.99 fob per tonne depending upon the type (Lumps or fines) and the quality of ore as also the shipping conditions, ocean freight etc.

(b) The demand for iron ore depends on the increase in steel production internationally. The projections of demand for iron ore vary considerably but the demand for iron ore from India is expected to be maintained at least at current levels. The